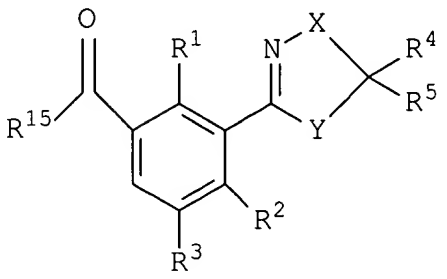
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I



I

where the variables have the following meanings:

R^1, R^2 are hydrogen, nitro, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_6-haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6-alkylthio, C_1-C_6-haloalkylthio, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyl or C_1-C_6-haloalkylsulfonyl;

R^3 is hydrogen, halogen or C_1-C_6-alkyl;

R^4, R^5 are hydrogen, halogen, cyano, nitro, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy-C_1-C_4-alkyl, di(C_1-C_4-alkoxy)-C_1-C_4-alkyl, di(C_1-C_4-alkyl)-amino-C_1-C_4-alkyl, [2,2-di(C_1-C_4-alkyl)-1-hydrazino]-C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_6-alkyliminooxy-C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonyl-C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkylthio-C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-cyanoalkyl, C_3-C_8-cycloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-alkoxy-C_2-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy, hydroxyl, C_1-C_4-alkylcarbonyloxy, C_1-C_4-alkylthio, C_1-C_4-haloalkylthio, di(C_1-C_4-alkyl)amino, COR^6, phenyl or benzyl, it being possible for the two last-mentioned substituents to be fully or partially halogenated and/or to have attached to them one to

three of the following groups: nitro, cyano, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy or C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy; or

R^4 and R^5 together form a C_2-C_6-alkanediyl chain which can be mono- to tetrasubstituted by C_1-C_4-alkyl and/or which can be interrupted by oxygen or by a nitrogen which is unsubstituted or substituted by C_1-C_4-alkyl; or

R^4 and R^5 together with the corresponding carbon from a carbonyl or thiocarbonyl group;

R^6 is hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-halogalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-alkoxy-C_2-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy, C_3-C_6-alkenyloxy, C_3-C_6-alkynyloxy or NR^7R^8;

R^7 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl;

R^8 is C_1-C_4-alkyl;

X is ~~O, S, NR^9, CO or~~ $CR^{10}R^{11}$;

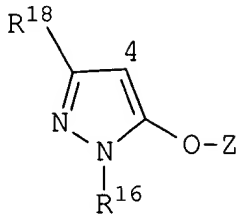
Y is O, S, <u>or</u> NR^{12} ~~or CO~~;

R^9, R^{12} are hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl;

R^{10}, R^{11} are hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxycarbonyl or $CONR^7R^8$; or

R^4 and R^9 or R^4 and R^{10} or R^5 and R^{12} together form a C_2-C_6-alkane-diyl chain which can be mono- to tetrasubstituted by C_1-C_4-alkyl and/or interrupted by oxygen or by a nitrogen which is unsubstituted or substituted by C_1-C_4-alkyl;

R^{15} is a pyrazole of the formula II which is linked in the 4-position



II

where

R^{16} is C_1-C_6-alkyl;

Z is ~~[H or]~~ H or SO_2R_{17};

R^{17} is C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, phenyl or phenyl which is partially or fully halogenated and/or has attached to it one to three of the following groups: nitro, cyano, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy or C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy;

R^{18} is hydrogen or ~~C_1-C_6-alkyl~~ C_1-C_6-alkyl;

~~where X and Y are not simultaneously sulfur;~~

with the exception of

4-[2-chloro-3-(4,5-dihydrothiazol-2-yl)-4-methylsulfonylbenzoyl]-1,3-di-methyl-5-hydroxy-1H-pyrazol

or an agriculturally useful salt thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as claims in claim 1, where the variables have the following meanings:

R^1, R^2 are hydrogen, nitro, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_6-haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6-alkylthio, C_1-C_6-haloalkylthio, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyl or C_1-C_6-haloalkylsulfonyl;

R^3 is hydrogen, halogen or C_1-C_6-alkyl;

R^4, R^5 are hydrogen, halogen, cyano, nitro, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy-C_1-C_4-alkyl, di(C_1-C_4-alkoxy)-C_1-C_4-alkyl, di(C_1-C_4-alkyl)-amino-C_1-C_4-alkyl, [2,2-di(C_1-C_4-alkyl)-1-hydrazino]-C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_6-alkyliminooxy-C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonyl-C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkylthio-C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-cyanoalkyl, C_3-C_8-cycloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-alkoxy-C_2-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy, hydroxyl, C_1-C_4-alkylcarbonyloxy, C_1-C_4-alkylthio, C_1-C_4-haloalkylthio, di(C_1-C_4-alkyl)amino, COR^6, phenyl or benzyl, it being possible for the two last-mentioned substituents to be fully or partially halogenated and/or to have attached to them one to three of the following groups: nitro, cyano, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy or C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy; or

R^4 and R^5 together form a C_2-C_6-alkanediyl chain which can be mono- to tetrasubstituted by C_1-C_4-alkyl and/or which can be interrupted by oxygen or by a nitrogen which is unsubstituted or substituted by C_1-C_4-alkyl; or

R^4 and R^5 together with the corresponding carbon from a carbonyl or thiocarbonyl group;

R^6 is C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-halogalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-alkoxy-C_2-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy, C_3-C_6-alkenyloxy, C_3-C_6-alkynyloxy or NR^7R^8;

R^7 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl;

R^8 is C_1-C_4-alkyl;

X is ~~O, S, NR^9, CO or~~ $CR^{10}R^{11}$;

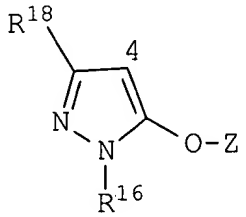
Y is O, S, or NR^{12} ~~or CO~~;

R^9, R^{12} are hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl;

R^{10}, R^{11} are hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxycarbonyl or $CONR^7R^8$; or

R^4 and R^9 or R^4 and R^{10} or R^5 and R^{12} together form a C_2-C_6-alkane-diyl chain which can be mono- to tetrasubstituted by C_1-C_4-alkyl and/or interrupted by oxygen or by a nitrogen which is unsubstituted or substituted by C_1-C_4-alkyl;

R^{15} is a pyrazole of the formula II which is linked in the 4-position



II

where

R^{16} is C_1-C_6-alkyl;

Z is ~~[H or]~~ H or SO_2R_{17};

R^{17} is C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, phenyl or phenyl which is partially or fully halogenated and/or has attached to it one to three of the following groups: nitro, cyano, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy or C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy;

R^{18} is hydrogen or ~~C_1-C_6-alkyl~~ C_1-C_6-alkyl;

~~where X and Y are not simultaneously sulfur;~~

with the exception of

4-[2-chloro-3-(4,5-dihydrothiazol-2-yl)-4-methylsulfonylbenzoyl]-1,3-di-methyl-5-hydroxy-1H-pyrazol

or an agriculturally useful salt thereof.

3. (Previously Presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as claimed in claim 1 or 2, where R^3 is hydrogen.

4. (Previously Presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as claimed in claim 1 or 2, where

R^1, R^2 are nitro, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_6-haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6-alkylthio, C_1-C_6-haloalkylthio, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyl or C_1-C_6-haloalkylsulfonyl.

5. - 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as claimed in claim 1 or 2, where

R^4 is halogen, nitro, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy-C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonyl-C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkylthio-C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-cyanoalkyl, C_3-C_8-cycloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-alkoxy-C_2-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy, C_1-C_4-alkylthio, C_1-C_4-haloalkylthio, di(C_1-C_4-alkyl)amino, COR^6, phenyl or benzyl, it being possible for the two last-mentioned substituents to be fully or partially halogenated and/or to have attached to them one to three of the following groups: nitro, cyano, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy or C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy;

R^5 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl; or

R^4 and R^5 together form a C_2-C_6-alkanediyl chain which can be mono- to tetrasubstituted by C_1-C_4-alkyl and/or which can be interrupted by oxygen or by a nitrogen which is unsubstituted or substituted by C_1-C_4-alkyl.

9. (Previously Presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as claimed in claim 1 or 2, where

R^4 is C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonyl or $CONR^7R^8$;

R^5 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl; or

R^4 and R^5 together form a C_2-C_6-alkanediyl chain which can be mono- to tetrasubstituted by C_1-C_4-alkyl and/or which can be interrupted by oxygen or by a nitrogen which is unsubstituted or substituted by C_1-C_4-alkyl.

10. (Previously Presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as claimed in claim 1 or 2, where R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen.

11. (Previously Presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as claimed in claim 1 or 2, where R^{18} is hydrogen.

12. - 15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as claimed in claim 1 or 2, where

R^4 is halogen, nitro, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy-C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonyl-C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkylthio-C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-cyanoalkyl, C_3-C_8-cycloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-alkoxy-C_2-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy, C_1-C_4-alkylthio, C_1-C_4-haloalkylthio, di(C_1-C_4-alkyl)amino, COR^6, phenyl or benzyl, it being possible for the two last-mentioned substituents to be fully

or partially halogenated and/or to have attached to them one to three of the following groups: nitro, cyano, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy or C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy;

R^5 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl; or

R^4 and R^5 together form a C_2-C_6-alkanediyl chain which can be mono- to tetrasubstituted by C_1-C_4-alkyl and/or which can be interrupted by oxygen or by a nitrogen which is unsubstituted or substituted by C_1-C_4-alkyl; or

R^4 and R^9 or R^4 and R^{10} or R^5 and R^{12} together form a C_2-C_6-alkane-diyl chain which can be mono- to tetrasubstituted by C_1-C_4-alkyl and/or interrupted by oxygen or by a nitrogen which is unsubstituted or substituted by C_1-C_4-alkyl.

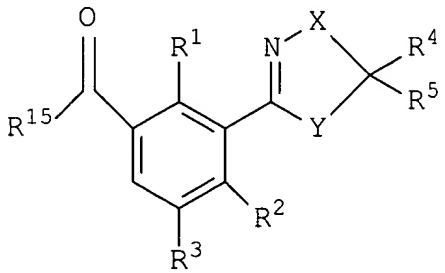
17. - 20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as defined in claim 1 or 2 or of an agriculturally useful salt thereof, and auxiliaries conventionally used for the information of crop protection products.

22. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of the composition defined in claim 21, which comprises mixing a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I or of the agriculturally useful salt thereof and auxiliaries conventionally used for the formulation of crop protection products.

23. (Previously Presented) A method of controlling undesirable vegetation, which comprises allowing a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as defined in claim 1 or 2 or of an agriculturally useful salt thereof to act on plants, their environment and/or on seeds.

24. (Previously Presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I



I

where the variables have the following meanings:

R^1, R^2 are hydrogen, nitro, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_6-haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6-alkylthio, C_1-C_6-

haloalkylthio, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyl or C_1-C_6-haloalkylsulfonyl;

R^3 is hydrogen, halogen or C_1-C_6-alkyl;

R^4 is halogen, nitro, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy-C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonyl-C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkylthio-C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-cyanoalkyl, C_3-C_8-cycloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-alkoxy-C_2-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy, C_1-C_4-alkylthio, C_1-C_4-haloalkylthio, di(C_1-C_4-alkyl)amino, COR^6, phenyl or benzyl, it being possible for the two last-mentioned substituents to be fully or partially halogenated and/or to have attached to them one to three of the following groups: nitro, cyano, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy or C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy;

R^5 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl; or

R^4 and R^5 together form a C_2-C_6-alkanediyl chain which can be mono- to tetrasubstituted by C_1-C_4-alkyl and/or which can be interrupted by oxygen or by a nitrogen which is unsubstituted or substituted by C_1-C_4-alkyl.

R^6 is hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-halogalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-alkoxy-C_2-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy, C_3-C_6-alkenyloxy, C_3-C_6-alkynyloxy or NR^7R^8;

R^7 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl;

R^8 is C_1-C_4-alkyl;

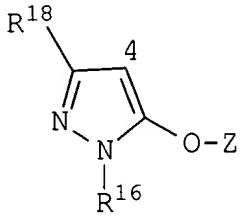
X is O, S, NR^9, CO or $CR^{10}R^{11}$;

Y is O, S, NR^{12} or CO;

R^9, R^{12} are hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl;

R^{10}, R^{11} are hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxycarbonyl or $CONR^7R^8$; or

R^{15} is a pyrazole of the formula II which is linked in the 4-position



II

where

R^{16} is C_1-C_6-alkyl;

Z is H;

R^{17} is C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, phenyl or phenyl which is partially or fully halogenated and/or has attached to it one to three of the following groups: nitro, cyano, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy or C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy;

R^{18} is hydrogen or ~~C_1-C_6-alkyl~~ C_1-C_6-alkyl;

where X and Y are not simultaneously sulfur;

or an agriculturally useful salt thereof.

25. (Previously Presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as claimed in claim 24 where the variables have the following meanings:

R^1, R^2 are hydrogen, nitro, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_6-haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6-alkylthio, C_1-C_6-haloalkylthio, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyl or C_1-C_6-haloalkylsulfonyl;

R^3 is hydrogen, halogen or C_1-C_6-alkyl;

R^4 is halogen, nitro, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy-C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonyl-C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkylthio-C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-cyanoalkyl, C_3-C_8-cycloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-alkoxy-C_2-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy, C_1-C_4-alkylthio, C_1-C_4-haloalkylthio, di(C_1-C_4-alkyl)amino, COR^6, phenyl or benzyl, it being possible for the two last-mentioned substituents to be fully or partially halogenated and/or to have attached to them one to three of the following groups: nitro, cyano, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy or C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy;

R^5 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl; or

R^4 and R^5 together form a C_2-C_6-alkanediyl chain which can be mono- to tetrasubstituted by C_1-C_4-alkyl and/or which can be interrupted by oxygen or by a nitrogen which is unsubstituted or substituted by C_1-C_4-alkyl;

R^6 is C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-halogalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-alkoxy-C_2-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy, C_3-C_6-alkenyloxy, C_3-C_6-alkynyloxy or NR^7R^8;

R^7 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl;

R^8 is C_1-C_4-alkyl;

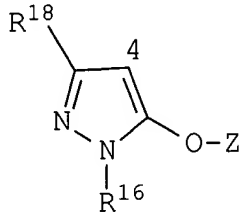
X is O, S, NR^9, CO or $CR^{10}R^{11}$;

Y is O, S, NR^{12} or CO;

R^9, R^{12} are hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl;

R^{10}, R^{11} are hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxycarbonyl or $CONR^7R^8$; or

R^{15} is a pyrazole of the formula II which is linked in the 4-position



II

where

R^{16} is C_1-C_6-alkyl;

Z is H;

R^{17} is C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, phenyl or phenyl which is partially or fully halogenated and/or has attached to it one to three of the following groups: nitro, cyano, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy or C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy;

R^{18} is hydrogen or ~~C_1-C_6-alkyl~~ C_1-C_6-alkyl;

where X and Y are not simultaneously sulfur;

or an agriculturally useful salt thereof.

26. (Previously Presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as claimed in claim 24, where R^3 is hydrogen.

27. (Previously Presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as claimed in claim 24, where

R^1, R^2 are nitro, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_6-haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6-alkylthio, C_1-C_6-haloalkylthio, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyl or C_1-C_6-haloalkylsulfonyl.

28. (Previously Presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as claimed in claim 24, where

R^4 is C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonyl or $CONR^7R^8$;

R^5 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl; or

R^4 and R^5 together form a C_2-C_6-alkanediyl chain which can be mono- to tetrasubstituted by C_1-C_4-alkyl and/or which can be

interrupted by oxygen or by a nitrogen which is unsubstituted or substituted by C_1-C_4-alkyl.

29. (Previously Presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as claimed in claim 24, where R^{18} is hydrogen.

30. (Previously Presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as claimed in claim 24, where

X is S, NR^9, CO or $CR^{10}R^{11}$.

31. (Previously Presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as claimed in claim 24, where

R^4 is halogen, nitro, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy-C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonyl-C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkylthio-C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-cyanoalkyl, C_3-C_8-cycloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-alkoxy-C_2-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy, C_1-C_4-alkylthio, C_1-C_4-haloalkylthio, di(C_1-C_4-alkyl)amino, COR^6, phenyl or benzyl, it being possible for the two last-mentioned substituents to be fully or partially halogenated and/or to have attached to them one to three of the following groups: nitro, cyano, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy or C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy;

R^5 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl; or

R^4 and R^5 together form a C_2-C_6-alkanediyl chain which can be mono- to tetrasubstituted by C_1-C_4-alkyl and/or which can be interrupted by oxygen or by a nitrogen which is unsubstituted or substituted by C_1-C_4-alkyl; or

R^4 and R^9 or R^4 and R^{10} or R^5 and R^{12} together form a C_2-C_6-alkane-diyl chain which can be mono- to tetrasubstituted by C_1-C_4-alkyl and/or interrupted by oxygen or by a nitrogen which is unsubstituted or substituted by C_1-C_4-alkyl.

32. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as defined in claim ~~1 or 2~~ 24 or 25 or of an agriculturally useful salt thereof, and auxiliaries conventionally used for the information of crop protection products.

33. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of the composition defined in claim 32, which comprises mixing a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I or of the agriculturally useful salt thereof and auxiliaries conventionally used for the formulation of crop protection products.

34. (Previously Presented) A method of controlling undesirable vegetation, which comprises allowing a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as defined in claim 24 or of an agriculturally useful salt thereof to act on plants, their environment and/or on seeds.

35. (New) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl derivative of the formula I as claimed in claim 2, where Z is SO_2R^{17}.

36. (New) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl derivative of the formula I as claimed in claim 2, where Z is hydrogen.